



Oregon School Activities Association
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December 21, 2021

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Football Coaches

FROM: Brad Garrett, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Football Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Update

The Football Ad Hoc Committee conducted its first public meeting related to Football placements during the 2022 – 2026 time block on December 20, 2021, via Zoom with public testimony streamed live via the OSAA YouTube channel. When finalized, Committee recommendations will be forwarded to the OSAA Executive Board for review and adoption.

OSAA staff provided a summary of 18 pieces of correspondence received after the last meeting. The Committee received online testimony from five individuals representing five different schools. The group then convened into a work session to begin discussion on developing a recommendation.

Before discussing movement of any teams, the Committee prioritized review and discussion focused on the type of structure/game type that would best serve member schools now and into the future.

Beyond the input provided through testimony and written correspondence the group had opportunity to review the results from an OACA Small School Survey focusing on structure, five year history of game result data for all schools, 11-player, 8-player, and 6-player participation data trends, and the adopted 2022-2026 classification plan. After review and discussion, the group is currently supporting the following:

- Utilizing the adopted cut-off points for the 2022-2026 time block for the 6A, 5A, 4A, and 3A classification levels to form special districts. These classification levels will continue to play the 11-player game.
- Organizing the remaining 2A and 1A schools into three groups. Two of the groups would participate in two separate 9-player divisions and the remaining group would be 6-player. A draft listing of which schools would be assigned to each game type is included with this update.

The largest portion of the work session was discussion surrounding the comparison of 9-player and 8-player game types. The number of 8-player schools has declined significantly due to the continued expansion of the 6-player game over the last four years and based on results from the OACA Small School Survey there is continued support for implementation of the 9-player game. Other factors that were discussed that supporting a transition to the 9-player game type include:

- Portability of the 9-player game - currently 11-player and 8-player schools are reluctant to schedule each other because of the differences in game types. Transitioning from 11 to 9 and 9 to 11-player has become common amongst all classifications. Bridging this gap will allow varsity teams to match up with a similar opponent in non-league play regardless of division or game type.
- Sub-varsity play can be positively impacted. The availability of smaller teams at the sub-varsity level will create fewer cancellations and enhance the development of younger players statewide. The committee agrees that building squad size is key to program sustainability and success. .
- Schools have been utilizing the 9-player game type for more than 10 years to provide additional opportunities for kids at the sub-varsity level. We have seen an increase in the number of these games in recent years and in some cases an expansion into the Varsity level of play in order to contest a game. Bottom line is the in many ways the 9-player game is already has developed a sub-culture of competition with Oregon.

- The reality that participation in the game of Football in Oregon continues to show a decline at all levels of play. When fewer kids participate average team size decreases overall. The decreases in average team size over the last 10 years have been significant.
- Schools participating in the 9-player game will be divided into two divisions by enrollment – each division will have its own Championship thus retaining the current seven levels of Football. A draft of which schools would participate in each level is included with this update. Schools placed in either 9-player Division do have the option to opt up and be placed in the 3A league. 9-player Division 2 schools have the option to opt up to Division 1. The Committee has not yet established a deadline to opt up – or down but will be doing so at their next scheduled meeting. The earlier you can communicate your intentions the more accurate the drafts will be moving forward.

The Committee will address the following at upcoming meetings:

- League/Special District alignments and allocations
- Whether to continue use of a criteria-based system to move teams up or down
 - Type and Duration
- Whether to continue use of enrollment zones between levels of play
- Removal of post season eligibility if opting to move down a classification level
- Written requests by the following schools to play down from assigned classification.
 - Ashland
 - Chemawa
 - Forest Grove
 - Harrisburg
 - Milwaukie
 - Parkrose
 - Phoenix
 - Riverside
 - Southridge
 - South Eugene
 - Valley Catholic
 - Willamette
 - Woodburn

The OSAA staff will provide a Committee update, like this one, to all superintendents, principals, athletic directors, and football coaches following each meeting. The Committee roster, charge, and any additional committee information is available at <http://www.osaa.org/governance/committees>.

Written suggestions and proposals should be emailed to the OSAA at bradg@osaa.org. Any communication received by the OSAA will be shared with all committee members for review and discussion.

The next public meeting of the Ad Hoc Football Advisory Committee is Wednesday, Jan 5, 2022, at 9 a.m. The meeting will be conducted at the **Holiday Inn-Wilsonville**. The general format for the meeting will be for the Committee to receive public testimony followed by a closed work session. The Committee appreciates your support and encourages your participation in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact Brad Garrett (bradg@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.

OSAA Football Ad Hoc Advisory

Proposed 9 and 6-player Model

as of 12/23/2021

9- player - Division 1 (77-145)	28	6 player (0-55)	25
Bandon Tigers	122	Camas Valley Hornets	39
Central Linn Cobras	139	Chiloquin Panthers	50
Clatskanie Tigers	141	Crane Mustangs	53
Colton Vikings	129	Crow Cougars	53
Culver Bulldogs	120	Days Creek Wolves	45
Enterprise Outlaws	101	Dayville Tigers / Monument Tigers	21
Gaston Greyhounds	127	Echo Cougars	51
Gervais Cougars*	196	Eddyville Charter Eagles	35
Gold Beach Panthers	92	Elkton Elks	55
Grant Union Prospectors	107	Gilchrist Grizzlies	23
Heppner Mustangs**	76	Glendale Pirates	55
Illinois Valley Cougars*	155	Huntington Locomotives	20
Irrigon Knights	141	Jewell Bluejays	30
Kennedy Trojans	106	Joseph Eagles	49
Knappa Loggers	92	Mapleton Sailors	25
Monroe Dragons	79	McKenzie Eagles	32
Nestucca Bobcats	95	Mitchell Loggers / Spray / Wheeler	38
Oakland Oakers	138	North Lake Cowboys	47
Oakridge Warriors	83	Pine Eagle Spartans	39
Reedsport Brave	106	Powers Cruisers	11
Salem Academy Crusaders	114	Prairie City Panthers / Burnt River Bulls	53
Santiam Wolverines	124	Siletz Valley Warriors	35
Stanfield Tigers	89	South Wasco County Redsides	44
Toledo Boomers	116	Triangle Lake Lakers	37
Vernonia Loggers	117	Wallowa Cougars	38
Waldport Irish	105		
Weston-McEwen Tiger Scots	121		
Willamina Bulldogs	139		

* Granted playdown by the OSAA Executive Board

**Requested to play up

9- player - Division 2 (56-77)	26
Adrian Antelopes	58
Alsea Wolverines	64
Bonanza Antlers	67
Cove Leopards	64
Crosspoint Christian Warriors	66
Dufur Rangers	59
Elgin Huskies	65
Falls City Mountaineers / Kings Valley	72
Imbler Panthers	59
Ione Cardinals / Arlington Honkers	75
Lost River Raiders	74
Lowell Devils	76
Lyle Cougars / Wishram / Klickitat	71
Mohawk Mustangs	68
Myrtle Point Bobcats	70
North Douglas Warriors	58
Perrydale Pirates	66
Pilot Rock Rockets	61
Powder Valley Badgers**	50
Prospect Cougars / Butte Falls Loggers	67
Regis Rams	75
Riddle Irish	59
Sherman Huskies / Condon Blue Devils	73
St. Paul Buckaroos	66
Union Bobcats	71
Yoncalla Eagles	56